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ALAN CRANSTON
CALIFORNIA

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United States Senate
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

ACTION
is assigned to
PA/PE

March 8, 1979

To: Office of Congressional Liaison
Department of State
Washington, D.C. 20520

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
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Enclosure from: Mr. Gregorio Rodriguez
Post Office Box 40390
Santa Barbara, California 93103

Re: Please respond to the constituent's concerns regarding his claim to monies owed to him by the People's Temple.

I forward the attached for your consideration.

Your report, in duplicate, along with the return of the enclosure will be appreciated.

Sincerely,

Alan Cranston

Alan Cranston

Please address envelope to:
Senator Alan Cranston
Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Att: Lorraine Huang

(6)

Dec.1st 1978 Sta.Barbara,Ca. 93103
P.O.Box-40390

Dear Sir,- HONORABLE - All Congressmen Of The United States Of America.

I Ask Mercy And- Please Intervene -Helping Me In This Matter And Give me An Advise How To Make By Law That This(People Temple Sect) Give us back at least - part of money THEY TOOK FROM US.

Primero deseo ayuda para que dejen a mi esposa salir de Guyana donde la Tienen DETENIDA ILIGALMENTE -aqui nesecito a ella- Urgentemente Y sus relativos que,no Hagan pagar dineros iligalmente no se cobre.

I Pleaded with you assistance in this matter PLEASE that my wife Be Realese - ([illegible]), and not be charged money ILLEGALY.

And let me know how can I do Within the law that this (PEOPLE TEMPLE SECT) give us back at least part of the MONEY they took away from US.

THAN YOU VERY MUCH.

My Grandchildren And My Dauther are all dead- 5 Bodys laying in Dover - Mourtary - we are been left no money..

I APREACIATE YOUR GREAT ASSISTANCE from the bottom of my heart

Thank You Again ..

Sincerely Gregorio Rodriguez

Ps That My Wife be sent home very SOON.

-EXCUSE MY letter

PEOPLES TEMPLE SURVIVORS

4 Claim Guyana Holds Them Illegally

BY DAVID F. BELSER
Times Staff Writer

GEORGETOWN, Guyana—Four members of the Parks family of Ukiah, Calif., survivors of the Peoples Temple deaths three weeks ago, charged Sunday that they are being illegally prevented from leaving this South American country.

"They have no legal right to hold us here. It is against their (the Guyanese) constitution and our (U.S.) law," said Gerald Parks, 45, the family patriarch who joined the Jonestown farming commune in the northwestern Guyanese jungles earlier this year.

Parks' wife, Patricia, 44, died Nov. 18 at Port Kaituma airstrip, near Jonestown, in the ambush that also claimed the lives of Rep. Leo J. Ryan (D-Calif.) and three U.S. journalists. Later, the cult leader, the Rev. Jim Jones, and more than 900 of his followers died in a mass suicide murder at the Jonestown commune.

Guyanese authorities want the family to testify against Larry Layton, 32, of San Francisco, charged with murder in the airstrip deaths. But so far, neither Parks nor his three children have received a court summons, he said.

"The way it stands now, we want to get out by next Friday," Parks said, noting that Layton's preliminary hearing in Magistrates Court is scheduled to begin Tuesday.

"We should be able to tell the court all we know in two or three days, and we're going to insist on being allowed to leave on Friday," he added.

Only two of the 41 Peoples Temple survivors still here are being formally detained—Layton and Charles E. Beikman, 43, of Indianapolis.

Beikman, a former marine, is charged with cutting the throats of Mrs. Sharon Amos, a Peoples Temple executive, and her three children. His preliminary hearing was recessed to this morning when his defense counsel failed to appear in Magistrates Court Saturday.

Parks and his three children and many of the other survivors live at the Park Hotel, a stately, wooden building on Georgetown's main street. Fifteen more survivors live in a suburban house owned by the temple where Mrs. Amos was slain. They can move freely in this capital but cannot leave the country.

"Our names are on a blacklist at the airport so that even if we try to leave we can't," Parks said.

The Parks family has no money.

"As far as medical help and hotel and food bills, the embassy is paying," Parks said. "We got a look at the (hotel) bill for 15 or 16 of us a couple of nights ago and it was $18,000.

"We had to sign a subsistence form to pay the U.S. government back when we could, but when we signed it, we thought we were only going to stay several days.

"We are being kept here against our will, we shouldn't have to pay, and our lawyer is taking it up with U.S. and Guyanese authorities."

Christopher O'Neal, 20, of Ukiah, another survivor and the boyfriend of Parks' daughter Brenda, 18, was hospitalized briefly over the weekend after suffering shortness of breath and chest pains.

"We believe he had an anxiety attack," Parks said. "We've been cooped up in this hotel for three weeks and it's getting to all of us.

"Chris has been worried. He was standing nearest my wife when she was shot (as she stood in the doorway of one of the planes at the airstrip) and he thinks he might have done something to help her. He's been feeling guilty about that, and he shouldn't. There wasn't anything you could do."

Parks and his wife came to Jonestown in April, bringing their daughters Brenda and Tracy, 12, and his mother, Edith, 64. Dale had come three months earlier in January.

The elder Mrs. Parks and six of the older survivors were allowed to leave Guyana two weeks ago, and she is now in Ukiah. So far, 38 of the 79 survivors have departed.

"We've got to get back home and try to pick up the pieces that are alive and start over again," the elder Parks said.

The family lived in Ukiah 12 years, moving there from Springfield, Ohio, where the slain Mrs. Parks' family still lives.

"We want to see the (Springfield) family and try to explain as best we can what happened," Parks said.

He said they received a recent telephone call from his brother, Dennis, in Ukiah.

"He said the people in Ukiah are very worried about us and so are the people where I worked (Safeway stores)."

Dale Parks, among the most articulate of the survivors, is a paramedic with training at Santa Rosa Junior College and a year at the UC Medical Center in San Francisco. He was employed at UC and at the College of California Medical Affiliates before coming to Jonestown.

"I want to further my education," he said, "but right now I just want to get back. Because I'm homeless and penniless, it's hard to make plans. We came out of (Jonestown) with the clothes on our backs. We're getting help from some people here, but it's difficult."

Temple's $3 Million Was for Killings, Woman Says

SAN FRANCISCO (UPI) — A young woman who served as the Rev. Jim Jones' top fiscal adviser says the Peoples Temple leader had planned to use money found at his jungle outpost — perhaps as much as $3 million — for "contracts" on his enemies.

In an interview published in Sunday's San Francisco Examiner, Terri Buford, 28, also said Jones had a plan in which his followers in San Francisco "were to stay alive at all costs and carry out the assassinations in the event of Jones' death."

She added, "I was told the money found in the jungle was to be used for putting out 'contracts' on people."

Buford said she left the Guyana mission Sept. 16 and had broken with Jones.

However, in Berkeley, two former Jones followers who set up a halfway house called the Human Freedom Center for church defectors said they doubted Ms. Buford had split with the church.

"I think she's trying to cover herself," Wanda Johnson said. "This is just Phase 1 of her plan to carry out Jones' orders."

Al Mills said, "Terri's very inventive. But she's just as hateful of traitors as Jim Jones was."

Tim Stoen, a former Jones aide and former assistant district attorney in Mendocino and San Francisco counties, said: "She's Jones' top avenger. No person in the church had a greater loyalty to him personally."

Ms. Johnson and Mills, who were at the Human Freedom Center at the time of the mass suicide-murders in Guyana, said that shortly after the suicides residents told him that Jones had a "hit list" for his enemies and Ms. Buford was the leader of his attack squad.

Ms. Buford put the total cash assets of the temple at $11 million and said most of it was in numbered bank accounts in Panama and Zurich, Switzerland.

She said she was able to leave Jonestown because she convinced Jones that she could be of more use at the San Francisco temple in helping to prepare defenses against lawsuits against the church.

"I want to further my education," he said, "but right now I just want to get back. Because I'm homeless and penniless, it's hard to make plans. We came out of (Jonestown) with the clothes on our backs. We're getting help from some people here, but it's difficult."

4 San Francisco Chronicle Thurs., Aug. 25, 1977

Former Deputy DA Named In Temple Property Probe

A former San Francisco deputy district attorney was alleged yesterday to have played a central role in a property transfer in which two ex-members of Peoples Temple claim their names were forged.

The accusations involve Timothy O. Stoen, a top adviser in the church who left his job with the district attorney's office last March. They are based on a series of tape-recorded phone conversations in 1975 between Stoen and Marvin Swinney, a former temple member.

According to Swinney and his private investigator, Joe Mazor, the tapes purport to show that Stoen was attempting to arrange a payment to Swinney and his wife Jackie in exchange for the couple's consent to a transfer of a Ukiah house.

The Swinneys claimed yesterday that the church was eager to avoid a legal fight threatened by the couple. The Swinneys said their signatures had been pasted onto an earlier transfer document witnessed by Stoen in 1973.

The tapes along with the records of the property transaction were handed over to deputy district attorney Robert Graham, who sent them on to the state attorney general's office yesterday for investigation.

Peoples Temple, and its leader, the Rev. Jim Jones, are being investigated by a number of state and local agencies in connection with charges that church leaders ordered beatings of members and pressured some into signing over real estate.

The Swinneys said they had followed Jones in 1965 when he moved his 100-member congregation from Indianapolis to Redwood Valley, a small Mendocino county town near Ukiah.

In August of 1975, the couple decided to leave the church and live in South Carolina. But when they checked local property records, the Swinneys claimed, they found their names had been signed to a deed transferring their Ukiah home to the church.

The couple protested to Jones and Stoen, who was at the time a deputy district attorney for Mendocino county, a top legal adviser in the church and also the notary who witnessed the transfer that the Swinneys claimed was a forgery.

Though the Swinneys claimed the transfer had not in fact been signed by them, they decided not to take up the matter with authorities then.

"We were scared that the church would harass us and the only thing we wanted was to leave," Mrs. Swinney said yesterday.

Her husband taped three conversations with Stoen that detailed the final arrangements leading to a settlement regarding the contested property.

According to the taped remarks, Swinney said he would drop his protests and Stoen in return said the church would pay the couple $2000. Swinney said the sum later was raised to $10,000.

A copy of the tape was given to The Chronicle by Mazor, who said he is working for 18 families of former temple members.

The Swinneys said they had given an abstract of their property deed to church member Archie James when they were urged to by other church leaders in 1973.

But Mrs. Swinney said the couple never thought such a move would result in an official transfer.

By telling us lie similiar happen to me.

Santa Barbara Calif. News-Press, Tuesday, November 27, 1979 C A-15

Bodies of 3 victims arrive from Guyana

SAN FRANCISCO (UPI) — With no family or clergy members present, the first three bodies of victims of the Jonestown ritual murder-suicide arrived home yesterday at San Francisco International Airport.

Two of the bodies were identified as the remains of Ronald James and James Oliver Shakmichele, and the third body that arrived later was not identified.

The first two bodies arrived in the hometown of the Peoples Temple in the cargo hold of a scheduled United Airlines flight from Philadelphia.

Meanwhile, in Georgetown, Guyana, police said they are still concerned about unpredictable activity among Peoples Temple members who are still in Guyana.

Police Commissioner Lloyd Barker, heading the investigation of last month's violence, said he is "still fearful of an outward development taking place among the cult members remaining in Guyana."

Barker said police surveillance had been reintroduced at the Temple headquarters where four former Jonestown residents are staying, including Stephan Jones, son of cult leader Jim Jones; Paula Adams and Deborah Touchstone

✓ ✓ ✓

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — The Rev. Jim Jones had earmarked $3 million in cash found at the Peoples Temple colony in Guyana for death contracts on his enemies, according to a top Jones aide quoted in a published report.

The San Francisco Examiner reported that ex-Jones aide Terri Buford said Jones had instructed cultists in California "to stay alive at all costs and carry out the assassinations in the event of Jones' death."

Ms. Buford, 26, said in the interview in Memphis, "I was told the money found in the jungle was to be used for putting out contracts on people."

✓ ✓ ✓

RICHMOND, Ind. (AP) — One of the sons of Peoples Temple leader Jim Jones says he can recall only one suicide drill at Jonestown and said no one was mistreated at the settlement in Guyana.

Tim Jones disputed stories of repeated drills and beatings that reportedly were the forerunners of the deaths of more than 900 of the cult's followers.

This is my [illegible]

Santa Barbara, Calif., News-Press, Tuesday, November 28, 1979

SANTA BARBARA RESIDENT AMONG GUYANA SURVIVORS

A member of the People's Temple sect who was at the group's headquarters in Georgetown, Guyana, during the mass suicide at the group's camp at Jonestown was identified by acquaintances here today as a Santa Barbara resident.

Aurora Rodriguez, formerly of 825 Bond Ave., was listed by the Associated Press as one of the sect members in Georgetown when the weekend mass suicide in which 912 persons took their lives took place. She and other survivors were placed under police guard at the Georgetown headquarters, the AP reported.

Mrs. Rodriguez is the wife of Gregorio Rodriguez, who retired in April after 21 years as a custodian at Santa Barbara Junior High School. Efforts by the News-Press to contact Rodriguez today were futile.

Friends of Mrs. Rodriguez said that she had gone to Guyana in August with her three grandchildren, identified by the friends as Lisa, about 12; Terry, about 9; and Aurora, about 10. It wasn't known whether the grandchildren were in Guyana at the time of the Peoples Temple deaths.